THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANT1MEHTA): (a) to (c) During 1999-2000, the production of fly ash in Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh) was 12.565 million tons/annum as against 70.774 million tones/annum for 73 TPSs out of 80 thermal power stations in the country. The percentage utilization of fly ash in manufacture of products, land fills and in mine fills in Madhya Pradesh during 1999-2000 was 15.56% by MPEB and 14.56% by NTPC of their respective fly ash generation. The percentage of gainful utilization of fly ash achieved in the country as a whole during 1999-2000 was 15.32%. Comprehensive guidelines have been issued in May, 1996 for maximum utilization of fly ash. CEA, on behalf of the Ministry of Power, is monitoring fly ash utilization. Various utilities have set up ash utilization divisions in their respective stations and are organizing seminars/workshops, etc., for proper interaction with various users. The target for next 5 years is as follows:-

Thermal Power Plants (Old)	33.3% Utilization of fly ash generated.
Thermal Power Plants (with 9 years	
years Stipulation)	50% utilization of fly ash generated.

Restructuring and Privatisation of Distribution of Electricity

1259. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are about to give a major push to the restructuring and privatisation of distribution of electricity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed changes would form part of the Draft Electricity Bill and if so, whether the opinion of the various State Governments have been sought for the same; and

(d) if so, their reaction to the proposed measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI J AYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Quantitative and qualitative power shortages, declining trend in rural electrification, poor financial health of State Electricity Boards (SEBs) etc. have necessitated reforms and restructuring of the power sector. It has been recognised that restoration of viability of the distribution sector is the key to improving the health of the power sector.

In the Conference of Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 3.3.2001, it was resolved that State Electricity Regulatory Commission may be made

functional in the next six months and tariff filings made and subsidies may be given only to the extent of State Government's capacity to pay the subsidies explicitly through budget provisions.

The Conference recognized that the real problem of management and the challenge of reforms lies in the distribution sector and resolved that:

(i) Energy audit at all 11 KV feeders must be made effective within the next 6 months and accountability fixed at the local level.

(ii) An effective Management Information System for this purpose needs to be made operational.

(iii) On the basis of the above, an effective programme are needs to be launched for identifying and eliminating power thefts in the next 2 years.

(iv) Full metering of all consumers had been targeted for completion by December, 2001. Special efforts should be made to complete the programme.

(v) The quality of power supplied especially in rural areas needs to be improved through the APDP and other programmes quickly.

(vi) Commercial viability has to be achieved in distribution in 2-3 years through any or all of the following:

> Creating Profit centres with full accountability.

> Handing over of local distribution to Panchayats/Local Bodies/ Franchisees/Users Associations, wherever necessary.

> Privatisation of distribution

> Or any other means.

(vii) Efforts by States, if necessary, at inviting private investment in the power sector need to be focused towards the distribution sector.

(viii) Current operations on distribution would need to reach break even in two years and achieve positive returns thereafter.

The State of Orissa, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, UP and Rajasthan have enacted their reform legislations and unbundled their SEBs. Delhi and Madhya Pradesh have passed their reforms laws. Orissa has privatised distribution. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Delhi have plans to privatise distribution. UP has invited bids for the privatisation of distribution in Kanpur.

Govemment has a proposal to bring a new legislation in place of three existing laws namely, the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. Discussions have been held with State Governments and other stakeholders at various stages of finalisation of the new legislation.

Power Projects financed by FDI

† 1260. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:
SHRI BRATTN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects financed through direct foreign investment for which Government have given an assurance of counter-guarantee at present;

(b) the total amount of investment made in these projects;

(c) the return rate proposed by Government for such projects;

(d) till what time this counter-guarantee will be valid; and

(e) the number of foreign firms which stopped working during last year due to non-availability of counter-guarantee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b)The following eight private power generation projects involving foreign direct investment were chosen for extension of counter guarantee of Government of India:

SI. No.	Name of the Project	Capacity (MW)	Estimated completed cost (as per techno-economic clearance given by CEA)
I.	VisakhapatnamThermal Power Project, Andhra Pradesh.	1040	US$943.75 million +Rs. 1324.993 crores @ 1 US$= Rs. 3 5.00)
2	Neyveli (Single Unit Lignite based) Thermal Power Project, Tamil Nadu	250	US$ 261.59 million + Rs. 501.10 crores @1US$ = Rs. 31.50)
3.	Mangalore Thermal Power Project, Karnataka.	1013.2	US$ 751.574 million + Rs 1580.89 crores@lUS$ = Rs.31.50)

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi